

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side;

multiplexing means for multiplexing a positive or negative unit cost per unit data in said data transferred through said network on the basis of a result of said judgment formed by said judgment means; and

transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network.

2. An information-processing method for information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a positive or negative unit cost per unit data in said data transferred through said network on the basis of a result of said judgment formed at said judgment step; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data

multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network.

3. A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a positive or negative unit cost per unit data in said data transferred through said network on the basis of a result of said judgment formed at said judgment step; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network.

4. An accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side; and

accounting means for driving said transmission side

or said reception side determined by said judgment means to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

5. An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data exchanged through said network; and

second acquisition means for acquiring a unit price per unit data for data exchanged through said network,

wherein said accounting means computes a price of transferred data on the basis of an amount of data acquired by said first acquisition means and a unit price acquired by said second acquisition means.

6. An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said second acquisition means further acquires a sign of said unit price, and said accounting means drives said transmission side or said reception side determined to be a side not initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting in case said sign is negative.

7. An accounting-processing method for an accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, said method

comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through a network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side; and

an accounting step of driving said transmission side or said reception side determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

8. A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an accounting-processing apparatus for processing an accounting process of data transmitted through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side; and

an accounting step of driving said transmission side or said reception side determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.